

Testimonial for House Judiciary Committee

Katey Shine

2503 Thayer Drive

St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

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It's a big, big thing, for my freedom and independence, to have the right medication. I've lived with Epilepsy for **15 years**, but I have now been seizure-free for over **6 months**. The new medication I'm taking is just amazing; I can actually be myself. I mean, I can be *me*. My old ones, I was always felt as if I were in a 'cloud' or a 'daze'; like I couldn't see where I was going. If I didn't have access to quality doctors and quality prescription drugs, I would probably be dead, in some kind of vegetative state, or a coma. I just couldn't imagine myself that way. Because of this new medication, I get both freedom and independence. I can stay home alone. When I was younger, I couldn't have done that. I can go out with my friends, and now that I am getting my driver's license, I can actually drive around by myself, which has been so great. I can go to the mall by myself, I can go to the store by myself, I can go anywhere, *by myself*, without somebody right there next to me, holding my hand. Now I'm having fun; I'm actually having a life. I've dated, I've gone out on a date, had a boyfriend . . . I love it.